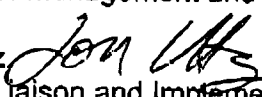


MEMORANDUM

United States Department of Education
Washington, DC 20202

DATE: March 28, 2006

TO: Rachel F. Potter
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

FROM: Jon Utz 
Policy Liaison and Implementation
Federal Student Aid
U.S. Department of Education

SUBJECT: Request for extension of the Loan Discharge Application: Total and Permanent Disability (OMB No. 1845-0065)

The Department of Education (the Department) is requesting an extension of the currently approved Loan Discharge Application: Total and Permanent Disability, without change, for a period of two years. This form is used in the Federal Family Education Loan Program, the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, and the Federal Perkins Loan Program.

Although the Department at this time is requesting an extension of the currently approved Loan Discharge Application: Total and Permanent Disability without change, we plan to submit a revised version of this form for clearance in the near future. During the 60-day public comment period for this collection, we received recommendations for changes to the current discharge application from two organizations, the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) and Texas Guaranteed (TG). We will take the comments submitted by NCHELP and TG into consideration when we develop the revised discharge application that will be submitted for clearance later.

OMB's December 2, 2002 Notice of Action approving the current collection included the following terms of clearance:

"ED shall continue to explore the feasibility of instituting an electronic submission option with the goal of having such an option ready upon resubmission of the package."

The Department has concluded that there continues to be no feasible means of providing an electronic submission option for the Loan Discharge Application: Total and Permanent Disability. The form requires a third party, the borrower's physician, to sign the Physician's Certification section of the form and provide detailed information about the borrower's disabling condition. In many cases this involves the submission of additional documentation, such as copies of the borrower's medical records. There is no means at this time of collecting the physician's signature and information about the borrower's condition electronically.

Thank you for your assistance with this request. Please contact me at (202) 377-4040 or by e-mail (jon.utz@ed.gov) if you have any questions.